

York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative – Consultation Feedback

Summary Report for “Heat & Buildings” Section

The initial draft of York and North Yorkshire’s Routemap to Carbon Negative went out to consultation between the 28th February and 17th March. The consultation aimed to gather feedback on the draft Routemap, with a specific focus on the “strategic priorities” and “actions plans”.

This report provides a summary of key themes from the consultation feedback focused on the Heat & Buildings section of the Routemap.

Questions	Key themes from stakeholder feedback
Are we focusing on the right strategic priorities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong consensus that we are focusing on the right strategic priorities to decarbonise Heat and Buildings. • Strong agreement that retrofit should be the focus, with some stakeholders indicating that a fabric first approach and improving what we have (rather than building new) needs to be further emphasised. • Local sustainable materials e.g. sheep’s wool. • Consumer cost element crucial. • Strong support for the level of ambition for housing retrofit, but concerns that the housing retrofit scale and pace is unrealistic. • Bring empty sites and homes back into use/change of use to prevent unnecessary build. • Policy around new builds needs to be improved. • Solar PV should be on all feasible rooftops. • H2 should only be deployed if green, or blue only if CCUS is sustainably deployed at scale. • Concerns over whether the hydrogen deployment timescales are feasible. • Rural property types/uses and electricity infrastructure will hamper heat pump rollout, so flexible approach for most cost-effective tech is required, and signpost back to power sector. • Must monitor performance of e.g., heat pumps to demonstrate effectiveness (and cost) to encourage uptake. • Short deadline on eliminating oil boiler use must be matched with substantial communications and financial support. • Unrealistic to end oil boiler use by 2030 – suggest 2030 for new homes and an extended deadline to accommodate anticipated replacement cycles.
Have we missed any priorities that you feel are important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce inclusivity to support fuel poverty action. • Role of local authorities facilitating the market for off-site construction e.g., Ilke and L&G. • Specific reference to viability within the planning policy review intervention. • Tweak retrofit priority to reflect need to fit with existing character and heritage. • Reinforce fabric first language. • Need for faster and better quality retrofit. • Specific reference to private rented sector and local authorities’ expanding role to enforce quality.
Are we focusing on the most impactful interventions in the Heat &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback on the intent to go above and beyond building standards. • Need strong push for more government funding for retrofit, local energy and district heat programmes. • Strong support for heat pump and retrofit supply chains activities. • Highly prioritise retrofit as both carbon and fuel poverty outcomes.

<p>Buildings Sector Action Plan (“How” section)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit one-stop-shop vital and fast (Jan 2023) – use Carbon Coop model. • Use Historic England’s existing evidence on historic buildings – local good practice examples would be good too. • Suggested addition to the Community Buildings Decarbonisation action: Seek to quantify the overall investment needed to achieve the community building heating changes needed to meet the targets. Develop cost/benefit models from the feasibility studies for others to apply to their business models. Add into the financial modelling wider economic and social impacts from the changes, such as local job opportunities and sustaining community facilities providing many wellbeing benefits.
<p>Do you feel there are any gaps in the interventions to ensure York & North Yorkshire reaches net zero by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push for solar on existing buildings. • Recognition of whole life carbon cost of replacing heating technology ahead of natural cycles. • Carbon neutral churches – learn from Craven trial and roll out. • Enabling heat networks. • Pilot and test new finance models for largescale retrofit (including private retrofit). • More cash and faster rollout across the board. • Schools and colleges – quantify carbon emissions and project their potential impact to get them involved. • Further research on understanding travel patterns. • Guidance for businesses on changing their business models for lower emissions. • Link between local evidence base and influencing government policy (e.g. archetypal retrofit) to make case for scale of challenge. • Gap in communications around non-obtrusive and non-technical changes to reduce home energy demand. • Innovation for smaller, quieter heat pumps. • Challenging to get traditional buildings up to EPC C – instead focus more on solar on commercial to offset.
<p>Please detail below any further feedback that you would like to provide on this section.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific terminology correction – pg 31 line 5 – change “nitrous oxides” to “nitrogen oxides” (different chemicals) • Do we need to lobby for more smart meters with Smart GB? • Requirement for nuance in retrofitting plans, to reflect wide-ranging nature of (particularly) heritage buildings, must be built in at outset, to deliver targeted skills and programmes for character-sympathetic retrofit. • Specific reference of viability needed as ‘going further and faster’ than the Future Homes Standard will be very difficult. • Permitted development rights are a national government issue – reflect by adding to ‘influencing government’. • Clarify ‘relax conservation area planning’ to ‘explore relaxing...’ in collaboration with Historic England. • Feed into Local Plan reviews at District and then at NYC level • Use lessons from the Energy Efficiency Advice Centre/Yorkshire Energy Partnership to develop one-stop-shop that is sustainable • Need to engage strongly across the entire buildings supply and maintenance chain (planners, architects, builders, estate agents, buyers, contractors, joiners, electricians, owners).

Key Actions

All feedback has been reviewed and will be addressed where deemed appropriate and feasible. Headline actions from the consultation include:

Update narrative and strategic priorities: to incorporate feedback around “fabric first” approach, prioritising “improving what we have”, grid capacity, and key challenges that will impact delivery.

Further partner & stakeholder engagement:

- **LAEP Steering Group:** discussion around how LAEP process can map out the impact of different scenarios dependant on hydrogen deployment timescales; and can support the phasing out of oil boilers (at meeting on 05/05).
- **Development of interventions:** further engagement with key stakeholders to ensure interventions can deliver at the pace and scale required. This will include working with the North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub to work collaboratively across the wider region.